

LIVING FAITH

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT, YEAR B
DECEMBER 17, 2017

THE GOSPEL FOR TODAY

John 1:6-8, 19-28



ROMAN CATHOLIC
ARCHDIOCESE OF ST. JOHN'S



There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.

This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, 'Who are you?' He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, 'I am not the Messiah.' And they asked him, 'What then? Are you Elijah?' He said, 'I am not.' 'Are you the prophet?' He answered, 'No.' Then they said to him, 'Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?' He said, 'I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, "Make straight the way of the Lord"', as the prophet Isaiah said.

Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. They asked him, 'Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?' John answered them, 'I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal.' This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

TAKING THE GOSPEL HOME

John the Baptist was sent by God with a message for the people. His message was a message of hope and joy—Jesus was coming! John wanted people to prepare their hearts and their lives to welcome Jesus.

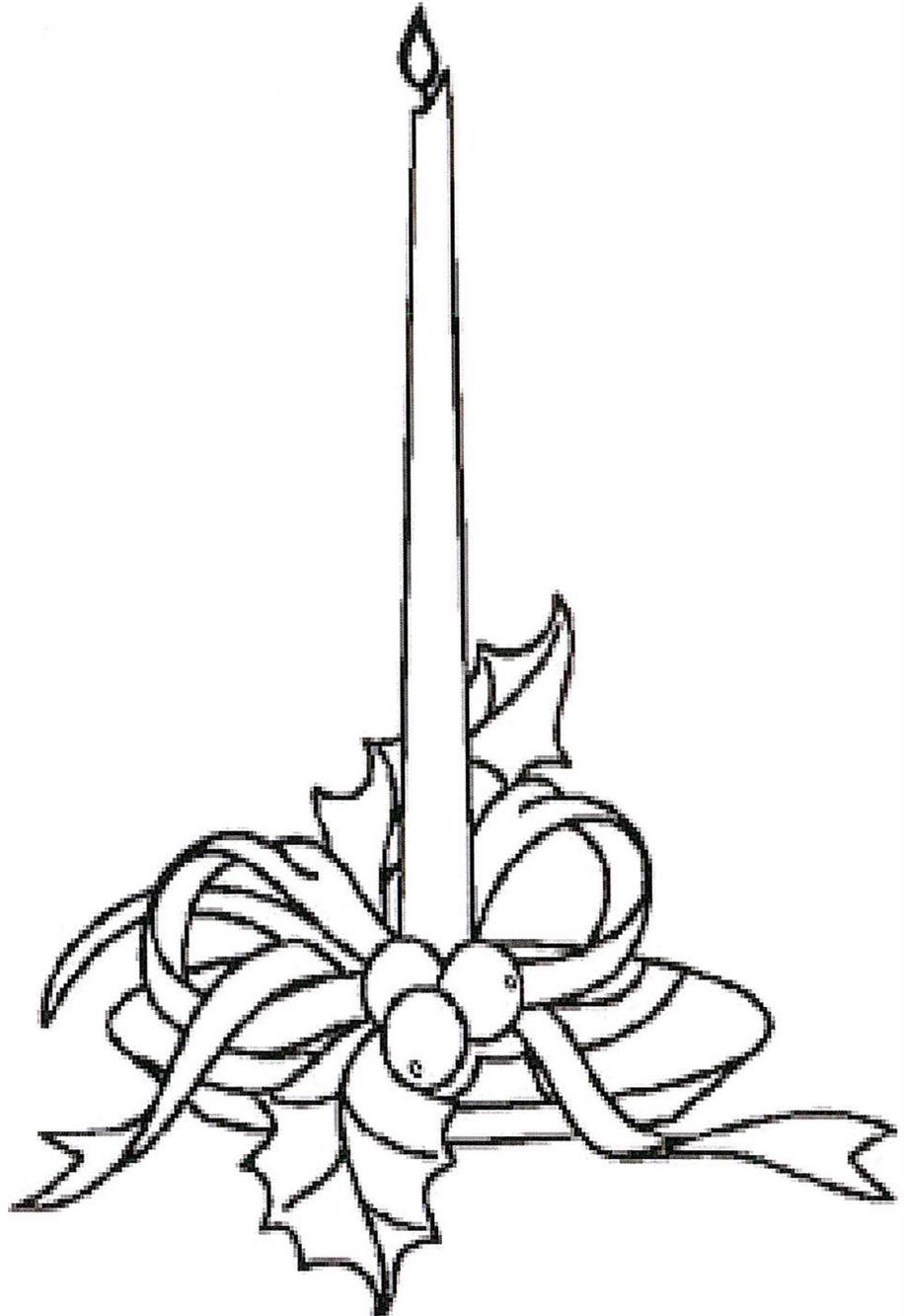
You and I are sent into the world to do something like John the Baptist did in his day. We are sent to show people the difference that loving Jesus and following Him makes. How do people know that we are followers of Jesus? It's simple! They will recognize us by our love, kindness, gratitude, peace, forgiveness and love. And, in our living, they will come to know Jesus and be drawn to Him.

- What is one thing you can do today that will show somebody else what Jesus is like?



Candle of joy coloring page

As a family,
name and
discuss five joys
we share this
week:



The archdiocese of St. John's has begun the exciting and challenging process of implementing our renewal plan, "A Promise of New Life . . . Courage to Renew."

For more information please contact Peter Whittle, Renewal Plan Coordinator Phone:

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Cellular: (709) 697-1998 pwhittle@rcsj.org

Visit: <https://rcsj.org/strategic-planning-2>



THE CHURCH TEACHES ADVENT



AN EVERGREEN CIRCLE

The Advent wreath, four candles on a wreath of evergreen, is shaped in a perfect circle to symbolize the eternity of God.

FOUR CANDLES

There are four candles, usually three purple and one pink (sometimes there is a white "Christ candle" in the centre). Each passing week, one candle is lit, until, on the fourth Sunday, all four candles are lit. On the first and second Sundays, purple candles are lit. On the third Sunday, to show our joy that Christ's coming is drawing near, we light the pink or rose candle. On the fourth Sunday, the third purple candle is lit.

LIGHT

While the Advent wreath with its four candles did bring light to homes and churches, it was not to illuminate the interior as much as to symbolize the coming of Christ.

THE FOUR ADVENT VIRTUES

During each Sunday of the Advent season, we focus on one of the four virtues Jesus brings us: Hope, Love, Joy and Peace. O The Christ candle is lit on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day reminding Christians that Jesus is the light of the world.



ADVENT PEOPLE

POPE FRANCIS



WHAT ABOUT YOU?

- Who are you connected to? How do you keep the connection alive?
- Does your smart phone or tablet ever get in the way of face-to-face relationships and talking?
- What would be one thing you could do today to let somebody else know that they matter?
- How do you let the Earth know that she matters?

In today's Gospel, we hear a wonderful description of John the Baptist as "a witness to the light." When we look around us in our world today, we can see many people who are witnesses to the light. One of these is Pope Francis. Many people appreciate Pope Francis because he says a lot, and also acts on what he says. A while ago, he gave a TED Talk. He give three lessons for life. Here they are:

1. Life is about relationships

"Quite a few years of life have strengthened my conviction that each and everyone's existence is deeply tied to that of others," Francis said. "Life is not time merely passing by, life is about interactions." The Pope said he often thinks about his grandparents, migrants from Italy who moved to Argentina, and how they would have fared in today's cutthroat world and "culture of waste."

"I could have very well ended up among today's 'discarded' people. And that's why I always ask myself, deep in my heart: 'Why them and not me?'"

2. Science and Technology are meant to serve us, not the other way around

"How wonderful would it be, while we discover faraway planets, to rediscover the needs of the brothers and sisters orbiting around us," he said. Drawing on the Parable of the Good Samaritan, the Pope noted that two men walked by the injured man. But a third man, the Good Samaritan, stopped. Today's humanity shares the same story, Francis said. "People's paths are riddled with suffering, as everything is centered around money, and things, instead of people."

3. Tenderness is a core Christian virtue

"Tenderness means to use our eyes to see the other, our ears to hear the other, to listen to the children, the poor, those who are afraid of the future," Francis said in his TED talk. "To listen also to the silent cry of our common home, of our sick and polluted Earth. Tenderness means to use our hands and our heart to comfort the other, to take care of those in need."

Tenderness isn't for the weak, the Pope continued. It takes spiritual and emotional strength to be tender. "Please, allow me to say it loud and clear: the more powerful you are, the more your actions will have an impact on people, the more responsible you are to act humbly. If you don't, your power will ruin you, and you will ruin the other."

View Pope Francis' talk here:

https://www.ted.com/talks/pope_francis_why_the_only_future_worth_building_includes_everyone?language=en